



April 8, 2021

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

District 1199 SEIU New England 1199 which represents family child care providers and educators who teach and care for children in the CCAP program strongly support H-5672 introduced by Representative Grace Diaz.

CCAP is a vital program for providing subsidized child care and educational content for the children of working families. The program is foundational to healthy economy for workers and employers.

CCAP is hurting in the pandemic, enrollment is down almost 25%.

We need to use this crisis to build a more resilient child care and early education program but more immediately need to pass an aid package, much of which is spelled out in this bill and funded by federal dollars from the American Recovery Act, to keep the program alive in the coming year.

More working families need to be able to access the program. At one point working parents up to 250% of the federal poverty level (FPL) were able to access the program until Carcieri cut eligibility. Since then parent eligibility has languished at 180% FPL. This legislation would begin to restore eligibility to 225%, this is vital as parents rejoin the work force is a recovering economy.

1199 SEIU also strongly supports rate increases for family child care providers and the \$20 weekly bonus for infant toddler to all CCAP providers.

We do have one concern. As written the SUB-A would lead to a significant rate cut from the current pandemic level increase for family child care providers taking care of infant/toddlers with Bright Stars rating of 1-2 Stars.

This is the only group amongst the entire CCAP provider universe that would receive a significant pay decrease from the current pandemic rate. We hope to work with the bill sponsor and stakeholders to address this issue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Emmanuel Falck